

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVIII.....No. 53

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Pantomime of Will o' the Wisp. Matinee.

GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third st.—Pantomime.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—Roussignol. Matinee at 1½.

NEW FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, 728 and 730 Broadway.—Alice. Matinee at 1½.

WALKER'S THEATRE, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—Glance at New York in 1845. Afternoon and Evening.

ATHLETICUM, No. 18 Broadway.—Grand Variety Entertainment. Matinee at 1½.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—Leo and Lora. Matinee at 1½.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker streets.—Ballet. Matinee at 1½.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Union square, between Broadway and Fourth av.—One Hundred Years Old.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—David Garrick. Matinee.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth street.—Ticket of Leave Man. Matinee at 1½.

THEATRE COMIQUE, No. 614 Broadway.—Spaniards; or, The Love Star of Cuba. Matinee at 1½.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—Grand Vocal and Musical Concert. Matinee at 1½.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—Alice.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and corner 8th av.—Nicomini. Matinee at 1½.

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Poland's Disgraceful Report—Expulsion and Impeachment the Duty of Congress.

Bishop Poland finds that his report has not received a flattering welcome from the American people. The duty imposed upon the committee charged with the Credit Mobilier investigation was a solemn and sacred trust. Bishop Poland knew this when he consented to become chairman of the committee. He ought to have known also that an indignant people would not passively agree to be humbugged if the duty was not solemnly and sacredly performed. Now, even he cannot fail to see that he has made a fatal mistake. Even he cannot fail to see that his course is reprobated by his countrymen. The whole country knows that in his conduct in this investigation, from the beginning to the end, he has been a faithless and impudent trickster. If the newspapers, with the HERALD at their head, had not demanded and extorted an open investigation, the testimony would have been taken with closed doors, and the whole truth would never have been published. Yet, in face of this, and in face of the fact, plain to everybody, that the country regarded all of the accused Congressmen, with the exception of Blaine, as guilty of the charges made against them, he has dared to defy public sentiment and the will of the people. He cannot plead duty, for it is his duty which he violated. He cannot plead ignorance, for he knew the public mind. The guilty Congressmen had no defenders left, for their crime was too clearly established. Bishop Poland finds himself in the same position, for even the blindest and most partisan defender of radical sins, the English administration organ in this city, after twisting and torturing the facts developed by the investigation, in the most reckless way, has been forced by public clamor to denounce this foolish report. That journal now sees what the HERALD pointed out long ago, that the miserable Tammany tricksters and robbers are not the only black sheep in the political fold.

This report is a trick—the result of an arrangement with the men whom General Butler called “the truly good Christian statesmen.” We have said this before, and we not only repeat it now, but assert that Dawes, Kelley, Garfield, Bingham, Scofield and the rest are its real authors and inventors. They supplied the black paint for Ames and Brooks and the bright varnish for themselves. They knew, in the slang of the day, that somebody would have “to face the music”—that somebody would have to become a scapegoat for the others—and they selected the amiable shovel-maker of Massachusetts and the venerable representative from the Seventh district of this city. They were first bribed, bought, paid for and owned by the Credit Mobilier. When their crime was charged upon them all of them prevaricated and some of them lied outright. To crown the mountain of their offences they at last added conspiracy to their other crimes. Bishop Poland's report is not meant to punish anybody, although the expulsion of two members of Congress is recommended by it. Extreme measures with these men are not contemplated—it is scarcely possible they ever were contemplated. The one is a democrat and the other a republican. Their arraignment is a sham—the resolution for their expulsion a trick to raise a storm in both parties. The democrats, as a matter of course, would resist an attempt to make a mere scapegoat of Brooks. The republicans, unless blinded by partisan zeal and ready to add outrage and injustice to the Credit Mobilier shame, will not consent that Ames shall be the only radical Congressman to suffer. A protracted and bitter debate is evidently contemplated, the result of which would be that the session will expire before anybody is expelled. The people will submit to no such trifling. We therefore beg the earnest men in Congress to prevent the success of any scheme of this kind, and to mete out punishment justly and swiftly.

We intend to hold Congress to its duty, because we believe that more depends upon its action now than ever before depended upon the action of a legislative body in a similar case. The shreds and patches of reputation of a few unfaithful public servants are of little moment; but not even these must be left them. It is public virtue that is on trial. The world is watching for the result with interest. The good name of republicans, of republicanism is at stake. The ability of a free people to punish powerful criminals is the question. We trust the answer will be one that will satisfy our own people and the rest of the world, for the fears which spring from an unsatisfactory answer are appalling. If such shameless whitewashing as that attempted by Bishop Poland is permitted this action of Congress will prove the deathblow of republican purity and integrity. This is not making a mountain out of a molehill. This is not a matter to be lightly and carelessly treated. The struggle that is to be witnessed on the floor of the House of Representatives next Tuesday represents one of the most important crises in American history. It is a crisis that must be met and met boldly if the Republic is to live.

The duty of Congress is very plain. Throwing aside all prejudices, all personal interests and all partisanship, no honest member can fail to see that if Ames bribed any of his fellow members all who took his money were bribed. To bribe is not more heinous than to be bribed. The one offence equally requires punishment with the other. If Ames is expelled from the House, as he must be for tempting others, the tempted must share the tempter's fate. Dawes, Kelley, Garfield, Scofield, Bingham and the whole pack deserve expulsion as well as Brooks. There is no reason why Patterson should be spared. Upon what grounds can Wilson expect to escape? Does Allison suppose he can be allowed to disgrace the seat in the Senate which Harlan disgraced before him? Above all, does Colfax think he can be forgiven—Colfax, a man who, at the time he yielded to Oakes Ames' solicitations and took the stock and dividends of the Credit Mobilier, held the most powerful legislative position in the country, and now holds the second place in executive rank—guilty of corruption and guilty of prevarication, if not of perjury? This man, raised so high and fallen so low, should be driven from his place as a terrible example to future Christian statesmen. The plea of want of time will not satisfy the people. In a case like this, if only a half hour remained in which he could be brought to punishment that half hour should pronounce his doom. This is not a season for solemn trifling, and

Congress must awake to the awful responsibility which rests upon it.

Will General Butler rise to the height of the occasion? Casting aside the tricks of the lawyer which he employed in the Whitmore case, will he, not only for the sake of Ames, but for the sake of his party and his country, denounce this great sham and move for the expulsion of all—not to save Ames, but to visit condign punishment on all? He has it in his power to do a courageous and valuable service. Mr. Fernando Wood's resolution has been referred to the Judiciary Committee, on which Butler holds the second place. Bingham, its chairman, would scarcely dare to direct its course in a case where he is himself a criminal. Butler ought to have had the chairmanship before. Practically he is now its head, and he and his associates must make short work of the task before them. Mr. Peters, of Maine, has been a long time in Congress. Before he retires he is to perform the most sacred duty which ever fell to his lot. Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, is chairman of an investigating committee, which brought the whole matter of these Credit Mobilier frauds to his knowledge. Let him show that these things were also brought to his conscience. Mr. Milo Goodrich left the republican party and joined the liberals because he believed the party in power corrupt. He lost his seat in consequence. Let him show that he can be as bold in dealing with men as he was in dealing with his party. Eldridge, Voorhees and Potter are democrats. Let them show that they are willing to punish a democrat as well as republicans. Mr. Shoemaker, of Pennsylvania, is a republican. Let him show that he is willing to punish republicans as well as a democrat. Mr. Tyner's cowardly and disgraceful resolution must be kicked from the committee room, and the Wood resolution brought into the House and pressed to a vote. The Congressman who dares vote against the impeachment of Colfax will then be compelled to share Colfax's infamy.

In the House there are many gentlemen who ought to take up the work of purification. Will Shellabarger, whose reputation so far has been without stain, seize this occasion to denounce this wretched apology for an investigation and report? Will General Hawley add to the promises of his few days in Congress by taking a bold and manly stand? Will Mr. Hoar do his duty? Mr. Marshall has been in Congress a long time and has the reputation of being a sincere man. What will he do in this crisis? We ask the same question of Mr. Maynard. Colonel Roberts is a near neighbor as well as the colleague of Brooks. Will he help to punish Brooks as well as the republican rascals? What will Mr. Cox do? He appointed this committee. Some suspicion followed his action in the matter because it was believed the committee would fail in its duty. The committee has failed. We do not believe Mr. Cox was governed by any but the best of motives in constituting it. He can prove this by a bold and manly course. Will he be among the first to denounce the committee he made? Mr. Blaine is exonerated from every charge made against him. Will he now tell the committee that though they exonerated him he cannot exonerate them? If these and men like these will do their duty now Congress may yet be purified and the bribed as well as the briber be punished. Caldwell and Pomeroy may go to the Penitentiary, where they belong, and rascals like them meet a like fate. A millennium of political purity might thus be ushered in and Jim Nye have no further occasion to demand that investigations shall cease.

THE PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON THE MEXICAN TREATY, sent to the Senate to show the necessity for ratifying the treaty with Mexico, now before that body, and extending the stipulations of the treaty under which the United States and Mexican Joint Claims Commission was organized, is a timely and sensible document. The President sees the difficulty Mexico has labored under during the troubles and transition period of the war against a foreign imperial usurper and the establishment of the Republic in regular form under the Presidency of Lerdo de Tejada, and wishes to give the Mexicans every opportunity to strengthen their government and do justice to the United States. He would not be unnecessarily exacting, but would give the needed time to adjust the claims between the two countries. We commend this kind consideration of General Grant and hope Congress will act in conformity with it, but at the same time it should not be forgotten that our Mexican neighbors are apt to be very premeditated and litigious about money obligations or any other claims upon them. Give them reasonable time, but insist upon a settlement. That is the only policy to pursue toward Mexico.

THE LONDON GLOBE, having carefully read the reports of the Tweed trial, concludes that all American politicians seem in a hurry to get rich and are not over-scrupulous as to the means. The English editor was sorely puzzled at first over the system of bookkeeping by which Woodward and Garvey made the Court House account cover the cost of the modest residences of Tweed, Connolly and Roche, as well as a liberal allowance for lobby and election expenses. Now that he has mastered the intricacies of Tammany double-entry figuring, it is to be hoped our English critic finds himself prepared to grapple with the abstractions of Congressional Credit Mobilier stock speculations, and that an attentive consideration of the cases of Colfax, Kelley and their companions will correct the unfavorable impression he has hastily formed of the honesty of our patriots.

THE HOHENZOLLERN CANDIDATURE REVIVED IN SPAIN.—A Madrid paper says there is good ground for belief that several leading conservatives are intriguing for the revival of the Hohenzollern candidature for the throne of Spain. It may be that some wag has set afloat this story. We cannot allow ourselves to think that the Spanish people, even if they should conclude to re-establish monarchy, will go out of Spain to look for a King. One thing, however, it is safe to say—if a Hohenzollern comes to Spain he will not be so easily got rid of as Amadeus. He will stick.

“CORRUPT INFAMOUS” is the latest term applied by an old politician to those who buy their way into the United States Senate. Mr. Jones, the newly-elected United States Senator from Nevada, is a Welshman. He can scarcely be called a “corrupt infamer,” for he does his buying and selling on a princely scale.

Washington's Birthday.

No native born citizen of the United States, whose nature is attuned to the institutions of his country, has any profound sympathy with the scepticism that relegates the anniversary of Washington's Birthday to the same obnoxious shelf to which most national anniversaries are sooner or later consigned. The American idea is that that anniversary is to survive forever. Practically its recurrence is infinite, or to cease only with that apocalyptic moment when the heavens shall be rolled together like parchment and the earth be consumed in flame. The Father of his Country is to have the right immortality—a post-mortem existence measured by ephemerids rather than decades. His birthday has a solemn sanctity that the Fourth of July is without. It is more serious than Christmas, as far as possible removed from the revelry of New Year's Day, and has something of the religion of the Thanksgiving season without its table conviviality. Englishmen smile at the shooting-cracker and pin-wheel with which we seek to give effect to the glorious Fourth, but find it impossible to do aught but take off their hats when we come to the beneficent Twenty-second.

An Independence Day oration is not usually remarkable for originality of thought and temperateness of tone. It is as full of sparkle and evanescent splendor as any other sort of pyrotechnics. And the same causes which prevent a speech of this nature from being distinguished by the characteristics of true eloquence preclude the character of Washington from being viewed by the average American in its true light. Dignity is apt to evaporate when subjected to the strong heat of bombast, and when the American eagle screams the proud bird's lordliness is likely to be lost sight of. The reputation of Washington is beleaguered by so many braggart crudities from vulgar minds that, with an effort at abstraction, it is often impossible to conceive him as he really was. Throughout all the bell-ringing and dinner-eating, throughout all the speech-making and toast-drinking that to-day are to mark the progress and conclusion of the anniversary, there is probably little general appreciation of his character and services. We do not say that there is not a profound and general admiration for him as a hero, but that that admiration is too often based upon vague knowledge and a traditional sentiment, unstrengthened by a patient study of his best biographers and that almost personal love which the magnetism of the great and good wins for them from posterity. We confess that we like to see that sort of appreciation which manifests itself in the noble imitation of some of the best qualities of the admired character. The present feeling of the masses has too much of the effect of a *tableau vivant*, with a touch of blue-light. And this consideration throws us back again upon the low level of the average individual and his incapability of sounding the depth and measuring the breadth of genuine heroism. But we cannot believe that the sentiment of our people with respect to the beauty and dignity of Washington's character will not grow purer and deeper with the slowly-refining sweep of years. His record lies before us like a broad meadow lit by a liberal but not intense sunlight. We might, perhaps, wish that there were more picturesque points and warmer tints and a more alluring intermixture of light and shadow; but, such as it is, the world shows scarcely another example of such calmness, power and equipoise, with just a sufficient tincture of sweetness to beget a warmer feeling than mere national admiration.

Climatic Changes.

An interesting paper has recently been published by a Southern writer attempting to account for the increased severity of the Gulf States Winters. It is pretty conclusively established that the cold of former years in the cotton belt and lower basin of the Mississippi was less rigorous than now, and the fact seems to clash with the known mitigation of climate noted in Europe, Asia and many other parts of the world, as apparently due to felling the forests and clearing the soil. The writer in question accounts for the climatic change by the felling of the Southern forests, affording a more unrestricted scope to the northwest winds, chilled by snow on the Rocky Mountains. He also very strikingly contrasts the effect of the winds which reach Southern Europe from the arid and sun-scorched wastes of Africa and the Great Desert and those which blow from the Gulf of Mexico over the Southern part of the United States. The African winds exert no inconsiderable influence on the climate of Southern Europe, producing higher temperatures than those which rule on the same parallels of latitude in this country, while the gales from the Gulf, impregnated with moisture, only increase the severity of the cold derived from the northwest winds.

In the early part of this century the average temperature of New Orleans was more than seventy degrees, and that of the Winters about fifty-six degrees—figures undoubtedly too high for the present time. That the clearing away of the vast forests of lofty pines from the Southern States has opened new ways and channels for the cold winter winds from the Plains east of the Rocky Mountains is highly probable and plausible; but it is equally probable that the rapid and widespread progress of emigration in the Upper Valley of the Missouri and throughout all the far Northwest has made a comparatively smooth plane over which the mountain winds may more freely and in greater volume descend upon the States of the Gulf.

Strange to say, the paper alluded to has received a singular confirmation from an independent and very recent communication by Professor Schiaparelli to one of the learned societies of France, in which are given many curious observations on the great cyclones which have deposited in Italy some of the sands uplifted from the Desert of Sahara.

If the observed increase of severity in the Southern Winters is confirmed by long experience it will work very material changes in the agricultural and sanitary condition of the Gulf States. By increasing the Winter rains it may accomplish much good, supplying the soil with stores of water against the usually destructive droughts of Summer.

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI is investigating the affairs of the Penitentiary in that State. From the Capitol to the Prison there is but one step.

The French Committee of Thirty and the National Assembly.

The cable despatches from Paris and Versailles, published in the HERALD this morning, bring hopeful intelligence of the steady and secure progress of the work of constitutional elaboration under the government of the Republic, and also of the prospect of a regular peaceable transmission of the republican form of government to the French people, despite the political machinations of the monarchists or the socialists in *terrorem* violence of the reds. The latest Parliamentary proceedings of the Committee of Thirty and of President Thiers, as they are set forth in the HERALD to-day, are of a very important and equally interesting character. According to the news the decision came to on Wednesday last by the Committee of Thirty in favor of creating a second Chamber has led to a rupture between the parties of the Right and the Right Centre. The immediate effect of this will be to strengthen the republican party, for it will compel the left wing of the Right to lean more upon the Left side of the House. It is reasonable to conclude that the Committee of Thirty will be successful in the work which they have undertaken. They have more than once during their deliberations listened to President Thiers and done their best to benefit by his suggestions. His suggestions have done much to modify their report. M. Dufaure has succeeded in inducing the committee to adopt an amendment, which provides that before its dissolution the National Assembly shall enact laws organizing and directing the transmission of the legislative and executive powers and creating a second Chamber. President Thiers has never been opposed to the creation of a second Chamber. A second Chamber has from the first been a prominent feature in the requirements of the Committee of Thirty. The transmission of power is a different question. President Thiers holds his powers from the Assembly. He is their officer. With the dissolution of the Assembly his powers would cease. The President asks that he be allowed to hold the reins of executive authority during the general election, and for some weeks after the election—a most natural and proper request. This concession, it would seem, the Committee of Thirty are disposed to make. It was a defect of the Bordeaux compact that no such provision was made. In the event of a dissolution there must be some responsible authority. The President of the Republic has the first place. After him comes the President of the Assembly. The presumption now is that the report of the Committee of Thirty will be substantially adopted. An immediate dissolution of the Assembly is not expected. The Republic is doing well, and it ought to succeed.

The President and Congress—The Treaty on the Fisheries.

The two houses of Congress, it would appear, have become so badly demoralized by the exposures from the Credit Mobilier and Senatorial corruption investigations as to require the special attention of the President in reference to the practical business matters of the session. Thus it appears that the other day he went up to the Capitol and had a regular business consultation with General Banks and other members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House, and next a similar conference with General Cameron and other members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, in which he plainly told them that if we expect Great Britain to pay the Geneva award in September (some fifteen millions of dollars) we must pay for the fisheries and the claims in regard to them awarded her in the same treaty. In reply the members of the committees then promised immediate attention to the Fisheries bill, but against it we may expect another demurrer from General Butler, in the name of the fishermen of Massachusetts.

In relation to these fisheries, the Treaty of Washington provides substantially that, for a term of ten years, citizens of the United States, in the valuable fisheries of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, &c., shall have the same general liberties of fishing as British subjects, and that British subjects shall have the same general liberties as citizens of the United States to catch and cure their fish and dry their nets, &c., along our seaboard and its bays and creeks, down to the thirty-ninth parallel of north latitude, or Delaware Bay. But, inasmuch as the fishing privileges to citizens of the United States thus given in Her Britannic Majesty's possessions are more valuable than those given in reciprocity in the waters of the United States to British subjects, the treaty further provides that Commissioners shall be appointed—one by the United States, one by Queen Victoria and a third by these two—to determine upon the balance in these reciprocal fisheries in favor of Great Britain, and that “any sum of money which these Commissioners may so award shall be paid by the United States government, in a gross sum, within twelve months after such award shall have been given.”

Now, whatever the award may be which these Commissioners shall give for the freedom to our citizens for ten years to fish near the coasts and in the inland waters of the British Provinces, from New Brunswick to Newfoundland, and for the privileges to our fishermen to cure their fish and dry their nets, &c., in said Provinces, whether the sum shall be five, ten or twenty millions of dollars, we are bound to pay it; and Congress should at once give the legislative authority necessary in this matter to enable the President to meet our obligations as promptly as England responded to the treaty in reference to the Geneva award and San Juan Island. General Grant desires to avoid any possible complaint of remissness or negligence on our part touching this Treaty of Washington upon an agreement which may call for some money from our Treasury, and we presume that the bill suggested in the premises will be passed before the expiration of this Congress, especially as the President is acting under the impression that from the 4th of March next there will be no meeting of Congress till the first Monday of next December.

THE CONNECTICUT DEMOCRAT have had their little love-feast, in which their liberal republican brethren partook of some of the side dishes. At the State Convention, in Hartford, on the 19th, Charles R. Ingersoll (democrat), of New Haven, was nominated

for Governor, and George G. Sill (liberal republican), of New Haven, for Lieutenant Governor. Both tickets are now in the field, and the campaign music will soon strike up—a muffled drum corps probably leading off. The election takes place on the 7th of April next.

Arbitrary Prices for Gas.

Several correspondents in the city ask the HERALD if the gas companies have the right to make their charges without regard to justice and fair play. We have two bills from one company, rendered in the last half of last month to consumers in Third avenue. In one the price charged is two dollars and a quarter per one thousand feet; in the other the rate is half a dollar more per thousand feet. Why the difference? And has the company a right thus to discriminate? Moreover, it appears from one of these bills that as high as three dollars was the printed rate, from which it is inferred that some customers pay one-third more for a given quantity of gas than others. One writer complains thus:—“I burn less gas for the last three months, yet my gas bill has increased every month.” These things do appear a trifle strange to those unacquainted with the dark ways of our purveyors of light; but to those who have watched the subject it is an old story of arbitrary exaction. They will call to mind the case of one of the chief ornaments of our judiciary, who some years ago looked up his house while he made a Summer trip with his family in Europe. When he came home he found gas bills to pay the same as though he had been continuing his customary consumption. He had not used a foot of gas, but nevertheless he had to pay—“he might have had the light if he chose.” “Twas ever thus.” Since the foul-smelling extract of coal supplanted honest whale oil and aristocratic sperm as the popular illuminator the companies making it have held the whip hand of the public. If you do not like their terms they are willing you should leave your house in darkness, and if you do not walk up to the company's office and settle your supply will cease. How can mere man with right on his side strive against the heavy artillery of these rich monopolies? Ten lines of honest legislative enactment on this subject by our servants at Albany would be welcome to all who do not care to pay more for light than they justly owe.

What Will the Liberal Republicans Do?

This question is propounded by the Lexington (Ky.) *Observer*, one of the oldest and most influential democratic papers in the State. Referring to the platform adopted at the Cincinnati and Baltimore conventions, the *Observer* affirms that it embodies the sentiments held by a majority of the whole people, and that so far as the democracy is concerned it is bound by that platform. In regard to the liberal republicans it advises them to remain as they are and be just what their name indicates—liberal republicans. Let them perfect their party organization and attract to themselves all republicans who desire an honest and just government. If the democracy hopes for success it must become just such a party. “It must,” continues our Kentucky contemporary, “encourage immigration and throw the protection of law around every citizen; it must provide a better educational system for white children where the old one is deficient, and secure educational facilities to the blacks; it must advocate internal improvements, and must nominate its best men for office, without considering whether they served in the Confederate or Union army, or in any army at all.” If the democratic press and people make the party what it should be there will be no longer any such question as “What will the liberal republicans do?” Would it not be a little interesting in this connection for some one to show what the liberal republicans have done besides making a pretty general failure all round the political compass?

THE NEW YORK CHARTER AT ALBANY.—The debate in the Assembly on the New York charter was continued yesterday, on the amendment offered by Mr. Opdyke in relation to the appointing power. Without reaching any vote in the Committee of the